

Application No. 10/625,067
Amendment dated April 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 23, 2004

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A template positionable in a main well bore and configured for drilling an offset well bore from the main well bore, said template comprising:
a substantially cylindrical body having a sidewall, a proximal face and a distal face, wherein said proximal and distal faces are substantially perpendicular to said sidewall and said body encloses enclosing a primary chamber;

a tubular inlet leg engaging said proximal face and aligned with an inlet opening in said proximal face, wherein said inlet opening directly accesses said primary chamber;

a tubular main outlet leg engaging said distal face and aligned with a main outlet opening in said distal face, wherein said main outlet opening directly accesses said primary chamber; and

a tubular offset outlet leg engaging said distal face and aligned with an offset outlet opening in said distal face, wherein said offset outlet opening directly accesses said primary chamber and, wherein said inlet leg is free from intersection with said main outlet leg or said offset outlet leg within said primary chamber; and

at least one by-pass tube enclosed by said body and extending from said proximal face to said distal face in fluid isolation from said primary chamber, said inlet leg, said main outlet leg and said offset outlet leg.

Claim 2 (original): The template of claim 1 wherein said inlet leg and said main outlet leg are coaxially aligned about a substantially vertical main axis.

Claim 3 (original): The template of claim 1 wherein said offset outlet leg is substantially parallel to said inlet leg and said main outlet leg.

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Claims 4 and 5 are canceled without prejudice.

Claim 6 (original): The template of claim 1 further comprising a diverter positioned in said body to define a drill string path from said inlet leg to said offset outlet leg.

Claim 7 (original): The template of claim 1 further comprising a diverter positioned in said body to define a drill string path from said inlet leg to said main outlet leg.

Claim 8 (original): The template of claim 1 further comprising a diverter positioned in said main outlet leg to provide a pressure seal in said main outlet leg and enable pressure stimulation through said offset outlet leg.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A template positionable in a main well bore and configured for circulating fluids through the main well bore, said template comprising:

a body;

a tubular inlet leg, a tubular main outlet leg, and a tubular offset outlet leg, said legs opening into said body;

a straddle assembly including a straddle tube having proximal and distal ends and proximal and distal seals positioned substantially at said proximal and distal ends, wherein said proximal seal is mounted in said inlet leg and said distal seal is mounted in said main outlet leg to provide a continuous straddle assembly flow path through said body substantially preventing fluid flow from said inlet leg and from said main outlet leg into said offset outlet leg; and

a continuous downhole flow path through said inlet leg, said straddle assembly, and said main outlet leg.

Claim 10 (original): The template of claim 9 further comprising an offset plug positioned in said offset outlet leg.

Claim 11 (original): The template of claim 9 wherein said body has a proximal face and a distal face, said body encloses a primary chamber, said tubular inlet leg engages said proximal face and is aligned with an inlet opening in said proximal face, said tubular main outlet leg engages said distal face and is aligned with a main outlet opening in said distal face, and said tubular offset outlet leg engages said distal face and is aligned with an offset outlet opening in said distal face.

Claim 12 (original): The template of claim 9 wherein said inlet leg and said main outlet leg are coaxially aligned about a substantially vertical main axis.

Claim 13 (original): The template of claim 9 wherein said offset outlet leg is substantially parallel to said inlet leg and said main outlet leg.

Claim 14 (original): The template of claim 9 wherein said body is substantially cylindrical.

Claim 15 (original): The template of claim 9 wherein said body encloses at least one by-pass tube extending from said proximal face to said distal face in fluid isolation from said downhole flow path.

Claim 16 (original): A template positionable in a main well bore and interchangeably configured for circulating fluids through the main well bore or for drilling an offset well bore from the main well bore, said template comprising:

a fluid circulation configuration having a body, a tubular inlet leg, a tubular main outlet leg, a tubular offset outlet leg, said legs opening into said body, a straddle assembly including a straddle tube having proximal and distal ends and proximal and distal seals positioned substantially at said proximal and distal ends, wherein said proximal seal is mounted in said inlet leg and said distal seal is mounted in said main outlet leg to provide

a continuous straddle assembly flow path through said body substantially preventing fluid flow from said inlet leg into said offset outlet leg, and a continuous downhole flow path through said inlet leg, said straddle assembly, and said main outlet leg; and

an offset well bore drilling configuration having said body, said inlet leg, said main outlet leg, and said offset outlet leg, wherein said straddle assembly is removed from said body to provide a drill string path from said inlet leg to said offset outlet leg or said main outlet leg.

Claim 17 (original): The template of claim 16 wherein said inlet leg and said main outlet leg are coaxially aligned about a substantially vertical main axis in said fluid circulation and offset well bore drilling configurations.

Claim 18 (original): The template of claim 16 wherein said offset outlet leg is substantially parallel to said inlet leg and said main outlet leg in said fluid circulation and offset well bore drilling configurations.

Claim 19 (original): The template of claim 16 wherein said body is substantially cylindrical in said fluid circulation and offset well bore drilling configurations.

Claim 20 (original): The template of claim 16 further comprising an offset plug positioned in said offset outlet leg in said fluid circulation configuration.

Claim 21 (original): A template system having a plurality of templates, the system configured for circulating a fluid in a well bore, the system comprising:

an initial template and a first additional template, each said initial and first additional templates including,

a body, a tubular inlet leg, a tubular main outlet leg and a tubular offset outlet leg, said legs opening into said body,

a straddle assembly including a straddle tube having proximal and distal ends and proximal and distal seals positioned substantially at said proximal and distal ends, wherein said proximal seal is mounted in said inlet leg and said distal seal is mounted in said main outlet leg to provide a continuous straddle assembly flow path through said body substantially preventing fluid flow from said inlet leg into said offset outlet leg, and

a continuous downhole flow path through said inlet leg, said straddle assembly, and said main outlet leg,

wherein said main outlet leg of said initial template is serially connected to said inlet leg of said first additional template to connect said continuous downhole flow path of said initial template to said continuous downhole flow path of said first additional template.

Claim 22 (original): The template system of claim 21 further comprising;

second or more additional templates, each said second or more additional templates including said body, said inlet leg, said main outlet leg, said offset outlet leg, and said straddle assembly, wherein said second or more additional templates are positioned in series, and wherein said main outlet leg of said first additional template is serially connected to said inlet leg of said second additional template and said main outlet leg of said second additional template is serially connected to said inlet leg of said next additional template to interconnect said continuous downhole flow paths of said templates.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A template system positionable in a main well bore and having a plurality of templates, the system configured for drilling at least one offset well bore through one of the templates from the main well bore, the system comprising:

an initial template and a first additional template, each said initial and first additional templates including,

a substantially cylindrical body having a sidewall, a proximal face and a distal face, wherein said proximal and distal faces are substantially perpendicular to said

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sidewall and said body encloses ~~enclosing~~ a primary chamber;

a tubular inlet leg engaging said proximal face and aligned with an inlet opening in said proximal face, wherein said inlet opening directly accesses said primary chamber;

a tubular main outlet leg engaging said distal face and aligned with a main outlet opening in said distal face, wherein said main outlet opening directly accesses said primary chamber; and

a tubular offset outlet leg engaging said distal face and aligned with an offset outlet opening in said distal face, wherein said offset outlet opening directly accesses said primary chamber and, wherein said inlet leg is free from intersection with said main outlet leg or said offset outlet leg within said primary chamber.

wherein said main outlet leg of said initial template is serially connected to said inlet leg of said first additional template.

Claim 24 (original): The template system of claim 23 further comprising;

second or more additional templates, each said second or more additional templates including said body, said inlet leg, said main outlet leg, and said offset outlet leg, wherein said main outlet leg of said first additional template is serially connected to said inlet leg of said second additional template and said main outlet leg of said second additional template is serially connected to said inlet leg of said next additional template.